

With Compliments
G.H.P.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR

THE YEAR 1896.

R. BLAKE, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, AND STATIONER,
DALTON-IN-FURNESS.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban Sanitary Authority :—

Gentlemen,

It is again my duty to present to you my Annual Report as to the health and sanitary condition of the district during the year 1896.

Area of District—7223 Acres.

Rateable Value of District—£64,062.

Inhabited Houses (1871) 1,603; (1881) 2,383; (1891) 2,597;
(1896) 2803.

Population enumerated—(1871) 8,983; (1881) 13,339; (1891)
13,300; estimated population for year 1896, 13,300

Of Dalton and Newton the population is 9,174; of Askam and Ireleth 3,135; and of Lindal and Marton 1,021.

Inspection of District.—In conformity with the order of the Local Government Board, regular inspections are made of the district, and special visits and reports have been made by myself in reported outbreaks of infectious disease or insanitary conditions.

Sanitary Condition and Progress—Water Supply.—During the year the supply has been generally of sufficient quantity and good quality. The new reservoir now in course of construction will most probably be completed before the end of the summer. The cottage at Dunnerholme crossing which I mentioned in my last report is still without a proper water supply, in spite of the efforts made by the Council to induce the owners to connect with the service mains belonging to Mr. E. W. Wakefield. The Council should lose no time in serving the owners with final notice to furnish a proper supply. At Paradise, in the Ireleth district, there are ten cottages which receive their water supply from an open stream nearly 100 yards from the dwellings, which is fed by a spring arising some 300 yards from the houses, the stream runs through agricultural land, and is subject to serious pollution. By impounding the water at the spring a pure supply could be obtained at a reasonable cost by gravitation through iron pipes, and the Council should give notice for this to be done without delay.

New Streets.—The Authority has during the past year completed the following streets, viz., Back Fell Croft, Back Prince Street, and Back Broughton Road, whilst tenders have been invited for the construction of James Street (back and front). I understand that the Highways Committee has instructed your Surveyor to draw up a list of all the streets still in need of completion.

Sewerage and Drainage—The sewers generally have been working satisfactorily, excepting on two occasions in the early autumn, when the downfall of rain was almost unprecedented, on these occasions some of the dwellings in the low-lying parts of Dalton were flooded. The Council has taken this question into serious consideration with a view to, as far as possible, preventing a repetition of the annoyance, but I fear it will be almost impracticable to make provision for such heavy downfalls, and at the same time to have sewers that would be capable of doing their work efficiently during ordinary times: it might nevertheless be advisable to consider the question of providing extra storm-overflow sewers.

I have had frequent complaints made to me regarding the stench which at some times arises from the street ventilators, especially those near the end of Wellington Street and opposite the Police Station. Where the streets are narrow I think it is questionable policy to have ventilators in the middle of the roads, and I should recommend in the case of the two named that they should be removed, or at least blocked up, and ventilating shafts constructed.

Quoting from my Annual Report for the year 1886, I find the following—"The Board has had plans and estimates before them with a view to carrying out a thorough system of sewerage in this village" (Newton), and yet, ten years later, nothing has been done! When will the Council recognise its responsibility with regard to this village. I have spoken to your Surveyor on the question, and he assures me there is a probability that the work will be completed before the end of the present year; but after waiting and hoping for so long one may be excused for being a little sceptical.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.—The Council undertakes the removal of house refuse, and there is every reason to suppose that the work is done satisfactorily. Every ashpit in the town is emptied once in three months at the least

Common Lodging House and Slaughter Houses.—These are the subject of regular inspection, and have usually been found to be kept in good order.

Offensive Trades.—There is only one trade—tripe boiling—which comes under this heading, and no difficulty has arisen during the past year in connection therewith.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.—Although the authority has adopted regulations under the order, there does not appear to be any rule in force as to the amount of cubic space which should be allowed for each animal. As milk is such a very important article of food, great care should be taken to have the supply pure, and this object cannot be attained if the producers are not kept in good health, and in order to assure the healthiness of the cows the lighting and ventilation of the shippings must be sufficient. It is to be hoped that the Authority will see its way to adopt some definite rule on the point.

**Table of Sanitary Work carried out during
the Year, as furnished by your Inspector.—**

Notices issued for sanitary amendments ..	..	66
Number of premises affected ..	..	78
Privies and ashpits repaired ..	..	16
Yard drains cleansed and repaired ..	..	21
Yard gullies repaired ..	..	13
Slopstone pipes supplied ..	..	4
Roofs and Walls repaired ..	..	7
Water supplied to houses ..	..	5
W.C.'s. supplied with water ..	..	3
Defective W.C.'s. repaired ..	..	10
Filthy houses cleansed ..	..	1
Houses closed ..	..	4
Privies converted into W.C.'s. ..	..	11
Bedding destroyed (in cases) ..	..	6
Ashpits emptied ..	..	4992
Loads of ashpit refuse removed ..	..	2852
Drains tested ..	..	16
No. of slaughter houses (licensed or registered) ..	..	12
Inspection of slaughter-houses made ..	..	689
No. of registered cowsheds and dairies ..	..	24
Inspections of cowsheds made ..	..	667
No. of registered common lodging houses ..	..	1
Inspections of common lodging house made ..	..	37

Results of Verbal Notices only :—

New W.C's ..	..	..	..	4
W.C's. repaired ..	..	..	..	4
Model ashpits constructed ..	..	..	..	2
Privies and ashpits repaired ..	..	..	..	7
Yards repaired ..	..	..	..	8
Yard gullies repaired and cleansed ..	..	..	..	6
Drains cleansed and repaired ..	..	..	..	13
Houses disinfected ..	..	..	..	6
Carcasses of meat destroyed ..	..	..	..	1

Factory and Workshop Act—Outworkers.—

Employers ..	..	..	..	1
Persons employed ..	..	..	..	4
Inspections ..	..	..	..	17

THOS. PROCTER,

20th January, 1897.

Sanitary Inspector.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—When the population of the district was enumerated in 1881, it was found to be 13,339, living in 2,383 houses, and in 1891—13,300, living in 2,597 houses, an average of 5.1 per house, and 1.45 per acre. In a population undergoing such slight variation in a decennial period, it will be safe to base all necessary calculations on a population estimated as being the same as when last enumerated. The population of the three divisions into which the district is divided in this report is as follows :—

		Male	Female	Total
Dalton and Newton	..	4616	4528	9144
Lindal and Martin	..	534	487	1021
Askam and Ireleth	..	1652	1483	3158
		—	—	—
		6802	6498	13300

Births.—During the past year 354 births have been registered, the numbers for the two preceding years being, in 1895—421, and in 1894—372, showing a decrease of 67 births as compared with last year, and 18 when compared with 1894. The birth-rate for the whole district is 26.6 per 1000 for 1896, and 31.6 for 1895.

		1896	1895
In the first quarter of the year there were		88	90
„ second	„	86	121
„ third	„	83	94
„ fourth	„	97	116
Totals ..		354	421

The distribution of the births for the three districts was as under.

	1896	Rate per 1000	1895	Rate per 1000
Dalton and Newton ..	216	23.6	273	29.8
Lindal and Martin ..	28	27.4	30	29.3
Askam and Ireleth ..	110	34.8	118	37.6
Total ..	354	Avg. 26.6	Tot'l 421	Avg. 31.6

There were 179 males born and 175 females.

Deaths — The deaths recorded for the year have been 194, as against 178 for the previous year. The death rate per 1000 of the population was 14·8, compared with 13·3 for 1895, it will thus be observed that there is an increase of 1·5 per 1000 in the deaths.

Localised the deaths were as follows—

	1896	Rate per 1000	1895	Rate per 1000
Dalton and Newton ..	185	14·7	134	13·5
Lindal and Martin ..	.7	6·7	9	8·8
Askam and Ireleth ..	52	16·4	35	11·1
Total	<u>194</u>	Avg 14·8	<u>Ttl 178</u>	Avg 13·3

There have been 97 deaths in males and 97 in females.

In the four quarters of the year the deaths were:—

	1896	1895
First quarter ..	53	59
Second „ ..	46	44
Third „ ..	37	37
Fourth „ ..	58	38
Totals ..	<u>194</u>	<u>178</u>

From the foregoing tables it will be seen that the increase in the number of deaths arises almost entirely in the Askam and Ireleth district, and during the last quarter of the year.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs were responsible for 48 deaths, compared with 54 in the year 1895, of this number 12 were due to phthisis (pulmonary consumption).

Infantile and Senile Mortality. — There have been 45 deaths in infants under one year of age, producing an Infantile Death-Rate of 126·8 per 1000 births, compared with 57 in 1895, or 135·3 per 1000 births.

In persons over 65 there have been 42 deaths, compared with 52 in the previous year.

Zymotic Death-Rate, i.e. deaths arising from the seven principal

Zymotic or infectious diseases Thirteen deaths have been recorded as arising from this class of diseases, as against 11 in 1895, viz.— Diphtheria 1; Enteric or Typhoid Fever 1; Whooping Cough 11; Diarrhoea 3; giving a Zymotic death rate .97 per 1000, compared with .82 in 1895.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.—The following is a tabulated statement of Cases Notified according to the provisions of the Act.

	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Diphthe-ria	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Total
1896	26	10	0	1	21	11	69
1895	47	19	3	1	11	0	88

The distribution according to districts is as follows :—

	Dalton and Newton	Lindal and Martin	Askam and Ireleth	Totals
Typhoid Fever ..	9	1		10
Scarlet Fever ..	10	10	6	26
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	16	2	3	21
Puerperal Fever ..	1	—	—	1
Small-pox ..	11	—	—	11
Totals ..	47	13	9	69

Typhoid Fever.—Ten cases of this disease reported, particulars of which will be found tabulated below.

		No. of Cases	REMARKS.
	JANUARY.		
Martin ..	..	1	Imported
	APRIL.		
Newton ..	..	1	Imported--died
Billingate, Dalton ..	..	1	Drainage defective
	MAY.		
Woodbine ..	..	1	House in low damp situation. No efficient drainage
Newton ..	..	1	Large open privy midden. Drainage defective
	JULY.	1	
	NOVEMBER.		
Victoria St., Dalton ..	..	1	No sanitary defects
Market St. Dalton ..	..	1	Large open privy midden adjoining house. Two privies of neighbouring cottages built against the wall of back-kitchen
	DECEMBER.		
Spring Bank, Dalton ..	..	2	Drainage defective, large privy midden.

From the above table it will be observed that there has been no grouping of the cases in any particular part of the district, the disease simply appearing in a sporadic form. The water, with the exception of the case at Woodbine, has been obtained from the public supply, and is above suspicion, nor has there been any reason to suspect that in any instance milk has been the vehicle of infection. Having excluded these two most common means of disseminating Typhoid Fever, it is not unreasonable to conclude that to some defect in the drainage or sanitary arrangements of the respective premises was the origin of the fever to be assigned, and in the majority of instances these were far from being perfect.

Scarlet Fever.—Although 26 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, the disease has not appeared in an epidemic form.

Measles.—After having enjoyed a three years comparative absence of this disease, it again appeared in the form of a moderately severe epidemic towards the end of the year, following, as is its wont, upon an extensive outbreak of Whooping Cough.

Small Pox.—On the first of May it was my unfortunate duty to have to report that for the first time for many years Small Pox had made its unwelcome appearance in Dalton. The first case notified was that of a man named Robert Quirk, living in a cottage in Market Street, and within a few days of this being discovered, it was found that his brother living in Queen Street, and niece living in Chapel Street, both of whom had visited Robert Quirk, had contracted the disease. The Ulverston Guardians were approached with a view to having the infected persons isolated in the High Carley Fever Hospital, and as speedily as arrangements could be made they were removed there, and the respective houses, bedding, etc., cleansed and disinfected, and those who had been in contact with the infected persons re-vaccinated. But we were not by such means destined to stamp out the disease entirely, for on the 13th of May it was found that the wife of the man in Queen Street was suffering from Small Pox, and five of the children were ill, and presenting symptoms so suspicious as to justify the removal of the whole of them to the Fever Hospital; then on the 14th of the same month, a woman in Queen Street who had assisted Mrs. Quirk in her housework showed symptoms of the disease, and on the 17th another woman in the same street who had visited the house. These cases were without delay removed to the isolation hospital, and with their removal what at first appeared to be the commencement of a severe epidemic outbreak, terminated. I think there is good reason to congratulate the Council on this result, which is largely due to the very prompt and effectual means which were adopted by them to prevent the spread of this terrible scourge. Our thanks are due to the Ulverston Guardians for their ready co-operation in placing the High Carley Fever Hospital at our disposal for the reception of patients, and also to your Sanitary Inspector for the untiring energy displayed by him in carrying out the various precautionary measures which were necessary at the respective dwellings.

As to the origin of the outbreak there remains considerable doubt. The man who first developed the disease was said to have been taken ill soon after unpacking some clothing belonging to a relative who had died on board ship on his way home from South Africa, and who it was rumoured had died of Small Pox, but enquiries which were made elicited the fact that he had not died from the disease, nor had there been any cases on board the ship.

Such an outbreak however, and the difficulties the Council had in providing for the isolation of the patients only tends to emphasise in a marked degree the absolute necessity for the provision of a hospital for the isolation of infectious diseases.

A conference of representatives of the several local authorities having jurisdiction in the district of the Ulverston Union was held on the 27th of August last, for the purpose of considering the advisability of establishing a Joint Hospital Board, but nothing definite has yet been settled. I am sanguine, however, that the Council is sensible that some provision must be made in order that in case of any future outbreak, they may be prepared to deal with the cases without delay.

I have again, before concluding, to thank your Surveyor and Inspector for their valued co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON,

L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health.

9th February, 1897.

